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1989/06/04

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Department of State

RELEASED

15426
E13
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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INFO LOG-88 AOS-88 INR-87 SS-88 CIAE-88 DOOE-88 N-81
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 007881

INFO ANCONSUL GUANGZHOU NIACI IMMEDIATE

ANCONSUL HONG KONG NIACI IMMEDIATE

ANCONSUL SHANGHAI NIACI IMMEDIATE

ANCONSUL SHENYANG NIACI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACI IMMEDIATE

ANCONSUL CHENGDU POUCHI

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AND EAP/CH BADER

E.O. 12356:DECL:ODRM

TAGS: ASEC, AEMR, CASC, OPRC, CH, AIRR

SUBJECT: ARMY-PROTESTORS CLASH--IMPACT ON AMERICAN
CITIZENS IN CHINA

REF: BEIJING 13821 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 4 JUNE 1989, THE CHINESE PLA USED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, TANKS, AND APC'S TO MOVE THROUGH PROTESTORS AND THEIR BARRICADES IN ORDER TO REACH THE CENTER OF BEIJING. AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PROTESTORS AND PLA PERSONNEL ARE REPORTED DEAD AND WITH MANY MORE WOUNDED. AS OF 1500, INCIDENTS OF PLA FIRING ON DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUED TO BE REPORTED.

2. (U) DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE CLASH, EMBASSY MARINES WERE RECALLED. AS THE SITUATION CALMED, ONE HALF OF THE DETACHMENT WAS ORDERED BACK TO THE MARINE HOUSE TO REST AND RESERVE RESOURCES WHILE THE OTHER HALF REMAINED AT THE EMBASSY. AS OF 1500 HOURS, 4 JUNE, THE DETACHMENT SECURED FROM RECALL TO REST IN ANTICIPATION OF AN INTENSE NIGHT. THREE MSG'S REMAIN ON DUTY.

3. (U) THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE IS NOW STAFFED 24 HOURS A DAY ALONG WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF THE MISSION TO INCLUDE CONSULAR.

4. (U) AMASSADOR LILLEY CONVENED THE BEIJING EAO AT 1130 HOURS, 4 JUNE 1989, TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DETERMINE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO BE TAKEN. WE HAVE INITIATED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

--REPORTING OFFICERS IN THE CITY ARE TRAVELLING IN TWO-PERSON TEAMS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY AT REGULARLY SCHEDULED INTERVALS.

--CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE VISITING HOSPITALS TO SEE IF ANY AMERICANS ARE INJURED OR DEAD.

--A TRAVEL ADVISORY URGES AMERICANS TO DEFER TRAVEL TO CHINA.

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--AN AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES CONTACT LINE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE CHANCERY ON A 24-HOUR BASIS AT 532-3431, EXT. 438 (CALLS DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS WILL BE REFERRED TO ACS' NORMAL EXTENSION, 264).

--AMERICANS ARE BEING CONTACTED AND ADVISED TO REMAIN INDOORS. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS ARE TO REMAIN IN THEIR RESIDENCES UNLESS NEEDED AT THE EMBASSY OR IN WORK-RELATED MISSIONS. MAJOR HOTELS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO POST SIGNS URGING AMERICAN TOURISTS TO REMAIN INDOORS. THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND OTHER AMERICANS ARE ALSO BEING CONTACTED AND ADVISED TO REMAIN INDOORS.

--THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

--AN EMBASSY GENERAL STAFF MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

--ALL EMBASSY SOCIAL FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

--IN ANTICIPATION OF A POSSIBLE GENERAL STRIKE, AMERICANS ARE BEING ADVISED TO STOCK WATER, FOOD, MONEY, AND FLASHLIGHTS.

--A TRI-AGE AREA HAS BEEN SET UP BEHIND THE MARINE LINE IN THE CHANCERY ALTHOUGH UNTIL NOW THERE HAS BEEN NO NEED FOR SUCH A FACILITY.

5. (U) MSG'S ARE ON STANDBY AT THE MARINE HOUSE IN ANTICIPATION OF CONFRONTATIONS TONIGHT BETWEEN THE ARMY AND PROTESTORS.

6. (U) SECURITY IS ON LINE AND CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS AND WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF EAO ACTIONS.

7. (U) FYI: ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ZHU EN TAO AT MSS/RPS HEADQUARTERS TO ASCERTAIN INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST. FOUR ATTEMPTS WERE MADE. THE FIRST ATTEMPT RECEIVED AN ANSWER, PAUSE, AND A HANG UP. DURING THE PAUSE, ALSO HEARD MUCH ACTIVITY IN THE BACKGROUND. THE SECOND ATTEMPT WAS GREETED WITH A CURT "THERE ISN'T ANY" AND "WRONG NUMBER", THEN A SHARP HANG UP. ADDITIONAL TRIES MET BUSY SIGNALS. THE NUMBER CALLED BELONGS TO ZHU'S OFFICE. LILLEY

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